

# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington  
Western District of Louisiana*

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## **FORMER OPELOUSAS POLICE CHIEF PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT**

*Former Police Chief Larry Caillier admits to  
making a false claim to a federal agency*

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . **United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that LARRY J. CAILLIER**, age 58, from Opelousas, Louisiana, pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge Richard T. Haik to presenting a false claim to a federal agency, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington.

A federal Bill of Information was filed against CAILLIER in December 2005 following an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Louisiana Office of Legislative Auditor, and the United States Department of HUD.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated, "Members of law enforcement are entrusted with the sacred obligation to enforce the law. Consequently, law enforcement officers must never breach the public's trust. As the United States Attorney, I am pleased to see that our processes and systems have led to Mr. Caillier's plea agreement. On the other hand, I am personally disappointed that one of our own has placed himself and

his family in this position. We extend our gratitude to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Finley, the FBI, the Office of the Inspector General of United States Housing and Urban Development, and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Office for their role in the investigation and prosecution of this case.”

According to the court record, in 2000, the Opelousas Housing Authority entered into three contracts with the Opelousas Police Department to provide police officers for a bicycle patrol to combat illegal drug trafficking in public housing. The bicycle patrol was a federally-funded program under the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded to the Opelousas Housing Authority. According to the contracts, the Opelousas Police Department was responsible for providing four bicycle patrolmen and one supervisor for five days a week, four hours each day.

Officers participating in the bicycle patrol prepared and submitted time sheets for the days worked. Using these time sheets, the Opelousas Housing Authority paid the Opelousas Police Department for the bicycle patrols. From August 2000 to June 2003, the Housing Authority paid the Opelousas Police Department \$225,000 for bicycle patrols.

According to the Bill of Information, between August 2000 and June 2003, CAILLIER, then Chief of Police, submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the Opelousas Housing Authority, claims for payment that he knew were false, fictitious or fraudulent.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the Court. CAILLIER faces a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate

sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

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